

Fauquier County Extension Office
24 Pelham Street, Suite 20
Warrenton, VA 20186-3234
(540) 341-7950, ext. 12, FAX (540) 349-1792
ahectus@vt.edu

July 5, 2005

Mr. Ray Graham
Chairman, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Mr. Graham:

I am writing to you at this time regarding drought assistance for Fauquier County. The Fauquier County Food and Agriculture Committee consisting of Bob Williamson, of the Farm Service Agency, a representative of NRCS, and myself have discussed the matter and have determined that Fauquier County meets the criteria of a drought disaster area, as per Federal guidelines. We have used conservative estimates based on the enclosed USDA Flash Situation Report and current market values for the four crops. In a typical year, there needs to be 1 ¼ inches of rain per week to avoid a drought. From June 2nd through June 28th there was no significant rainfall. Evaporation rates are between ¼ and .44 inches per day. Pastures losses have reached 40% of the total crop to date. Other losses have been seen in the corn, hay, and soybean crops.

If Fauquier County is granted drought disaster status by the Governor's office, farmers in Fauquier County will be eligible for guaranteed low-interest loans from the Farm Service Agency, as well as any other disaster relief programs that are appropriated by Congress.

Enclosed you will find a suggested resolution for the Board to use in making this request of the Governor. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Alison Hectus
Extension Agent, Horticulture